

Pennington County Resource Advisory Council Meeting

Date May 3, 2011

Time 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Location Mystic Ranger District Office
8221 South Highway 16
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

Contact Lisa Sanders
Support Services Specialist, Mystic Ranger District
605-716-2059

This was the first meeting for the Pennington County Resource Advisory Committee.

RAC Members – Don Hausle, Danielle Wiebers, Patty Brown, Ken Edel, Carson Engelskirger, Patrick Brondos, Jim Glines, Jerry Cole, Skip Tillisch, Deb Black, Dirk Gustin, Elizabeth Munro, Ervin Berg, Quintin LaGrande, Dan Conrad, Lori Litzen, Michael Verchio

Forest Service – Robert J. Thompson, Lisa Sanders

Public - none

Other - none

Meeting Notes

- Greeting - by District Ranger Bob Thompson – Thanks to all members for their participation and patience in the appointment process
- Introduction of RAC Members and Federal Officials – members shared backgrounds - personal and career - and other interests
- Review Legislation, FACA Overview, Charter, RAC Roles & Responsibilities – Overview of Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) and Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). 1905 – Concept of regulating forest/public lands. To gain support of public, revenues from use and resources (25%) shared with counties. Large revenues from Northwest forests – timber industry – split between roads and schools. When timber industry slowed, revenues were significantly cut. The Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Act (2000) designed to help maintain revenues, continue to share receipts of high three years. SRS Act, with help of Resource Advisory Committees, set up projects on forests – in addition to roads and schools. Further legislation (2007) – provided stricter controls on how funds would be spent. 85% to counties for roads and schools, other 15% divided between wildfire and firewise projects (7%) and other 8% to RAC. RAC's established under FACA – purpose of FACA is to ensure consistency, transparency and objectivity. RAC is a sanctioned committee appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Black Hills has three RAC's – Pennington County, Lawrence County and Custer County. Purpose of a RAC is to evaluate and recommend projects on the National Forest within the respective county. Projects must meet criteria established. At least 50% of all Title II funds are primarily dedicated to road maintenance, decommissioning, etc and restoration of streams, watersheds, etc. RAC members, the general public, and the Forest Service may submit project proposals for consideration. We can contract the work out, pay the Forest Service to accomplish, or work with partners/volunteers, State and/or Federal agencies to help stretch the available funds - \$331,636.00.

- Means of Internal Communications – email, telephone, mail, contact information updated – will be shared with other RAC members
- Forest Service Mission and Organization – General overview of the Forest Service. The Forest Service does not “own” the forest; rather, we are stewards of these lands for the public. There are 155 National Forests and 20 National Grasslands totaling approximately 193 million acres. The Forest Service was formed in 1905 as part of the Department of Agriculture. Some fast facts about the Black Hills National Forest: (some numbers may be slightly dated):
 - 1.25 million acres
 - \$31 Million Annual Budget
 - Provides raw material for over \$32 million in labor income for local Wood Products Industry: Approximately \$4 million paid directly to local Counties
 - Over 260 permanent employees + 300 seasonal employees
 - Directly supports over 1000 Wood Products Jobs
 - 190,000 CCF Timber/POL Sale Program
 - 135 Grazing Allotments, about 300 permittees, 129,000 AUM’s 1500 miles of range fence, 500 water developments (wells, springs) and 1800 water structures (tanks, ponds).
 - Numerous Recreation Facilities
 - 700 Campsites at 32 Campgrounds
 - 7 Boat Ramps
 - 27 Picnic Areas
 - 4 Swimming Beaches
 - 54 Trailheads
 - Visitor Center at Pactola
 - Several thousand miles of Roads and Motorized Trails
 - 760 Special Use Permits for Communication Sites, Marinas, Outfitter-Guides, Road Easements, Utilities, Summer Homes
 - Average of 135 wildfires per year/6500 acres burned per year
 - Over 12, 000 Recorded Archeological Sites
 - Over 3000 miles of landline boundary
- Nominations for RAC Chairperson – will be accepted in the next week; a chairperson will be elected at the May 10, 2011 meeting
- Next Meeting – scheduled for May 10, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. – Mystic Ranger District
- Public Comments – none
- Adjourn

Handouts - RAC Folder